



For Immediate Release

Contact: For questions about your state's delegates, alternates or selection process, please contact your state selection administrator: Mrs. Carol Gneckow at (406) 444-2417 or cgneckow@mt.gov. For more general information about the United States Senate Youth Program, please contact program director Rayne Guilford at 800-425-3632, www.ussenateyouth.org.

Montana Students Selected for United States Senate Youth Program **-- Students Headed to Washington, D. C. and to Receive \$5000 Scholarship--**

Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester today announced the names of the two students who have been selected as delegates to the 48th Annual United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) that will be held March 6 – 13, 2010 in Washington, D.C. Dylan Klapmeier of Forsyth and Timothy Seery of Great Falls were chosen from hundreds of applicants to be part of the group of 104 student delegates who will attend the program's 48th Annual Washington Week.

The USSYP was created by Senate Resolution 324 in 1962 and has been sponsored by the Senate and fully funded by The Hearst Foundations since inception. Originally proposed by Senators Kuchel, Mansfield, Dirksen and Humphrey, the impetus for the program as stated in Senate testimony was "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

Each year this extremely competitive merit-based program brings 104 of the most outstanding high school students — two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education Activity — to Washington, D.C. for an intensive week-long study of the federal government and the people who lead it. The overall mission of the program is to help instill within each class of USSYP student delegates more profound knowledge of the American political process and a lifelong commitment to public service. In addition to the program week, The Hearst Foundations provide each of the 104 student delegates with a \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship with encouragement to continue coursework in government, history and public affairs. Transportation and all expenses for Washington Week are also provided by The Hearst Foundations, as stipulated in S.Res.324; no government funds are utilized.

Dylan Klapmeier is Student Council Representative at Forsyth High School. He has been involved in Business Professionals of America, speech, drama, debate, golf, bowling, class office, and Spanish Club during his high school career. Dylan attended Montana Boys' State and served as a Page for the 2009 Montana Senate. He is also very involved in his church and youth group. He plans on attending the University of Montana and studying political science next year.

(more)

UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAGE -2-

Timothy Seery is Junior Class President at Charles M. Russell High School. He also served as Student Council Representative on the Montana Board of Public Education. Timothy was a National Forensics League National Qualifier in Extemporaneous and Outstanding Distinction award winner, as well as the 2009 MHSA Impromptu State Champion. He is a member of GF Artist Assoc/Four West Art League, Chair and Keynote Speaker for March Against Meth, Chair of Great Falls Youth Council, and News Editor of CMR Stampede. Timothy plans to major in history/government and pursue a career as a university educator and seek public office.

Chosen as alternates to the 2010 program were Erich Dieziger, a resident of Missoula, who attends Loyola-Sacred Heart High School and Stephanie Maughan, a resident of Charlo, who attends Charlo High School.

The chief educational officer in each state selects the delegates after nomination by teachers and principals. This year's delegates were designated by Ms. Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

While in Washington the student delegates will attend meetings and briefings with Senate leadership, other Senators and Congressional staff; the President, a Justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of cabinet agencies, an Ambassador to the United States and top members of the national media. The students will also tour many of the national monuments and several museums and they will stay at the historic Mayflower hotel in downtown Washington, D.C.

In addition to outstanding leadership abilities and a strong commitment to public service, this year's students rank academically in the top one percent of their states. They continue to excel and develop impressive qualities that are often directed toward public service. Among the many distinguished former program delegates are Senator Susan Collins of Maine, the first program delegate elected to the Senate; Chief Judge Robert Henry, U.S. Court of Appeals; former Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt; former Presidential Advisors Thomas "Mack" McLarty and Karl Rove. Additional distinguished alumni are former Lt. Governor of Idaho David LeRoy, Governor-Elect for New Jersey Christopher Christie, military officers, Foreign Service Officers, members of State Legislatures, top Congressional staff, healthcare providers and university educators.

Members of the USSYP 2010 48th Annual Senate Advisory Committee are: Co-Chairs — Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr. of Pennsylvania and Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi. Advisory Committee — Senator Mark Begich of Alaska, Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico, Senator Mark L. Pryor of Arkansas, Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Senator Susan M. Collins of Maine, Senator John Cornyn of Texas, Senator Mike Johanns of Nebraska and Senator George V. Voinovich of Ohio. Each year, the Honorary Co-Chairs of the program are the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders and the Vice President of the United States.
